

What is claimed is:

1. A commerce applications platform for providing features and services for commerce software applications, and operatively adaptable to a server platform capable of server-side presentation logic, the commerce applications platform comprising:

an interface providing access to data elements, including a data and object repository;

functional support for application logic based upon inheritance from the commerce applications platform;

functional support for presentation logic;

functional support for maintaining application data persistent within a user session; and

an interface for access to a business object during the user session.

2. The commerce applications platform of claim 1, wherein the data elements are stored within a computer-readable medium in the form of a data structure forming a list of at least one data element, wherein each data element comprises:

a first field containing data representing a data element name;

a second field containing data representing the data element type; and

a third field containing data representing the data element value.

3. The commerce applications platform of claim 1, further comprising a rule engine for evaluating rule parameters.
4. The commerce applications platform of claim 1, further comprising a data management interface for the storage and retrieval of data during a user session.
5. The commerce applications platform of claim 1, further comprising user authentication logic that provides or denies a user access to the commerce software applications.
6. The commerce applications platform of claim 1, further comprising a data store interface used to transfer data to and from a data store.
7. The commerce applications platform of claim 6, wherein the data store further comprises LDAP data stores.
8. The commerce applications platform of claim 6, wherein the data store further comprises database data stores.
9. The commerce applications platform of claim 1, wherein the business object is cached during the user session.
10. A method for implementing a first software application resident on a commerce application platform, comprising:
 - providing presentation information by the first software application seeking input data from a user;
 - receiving input data from the user for use by the first software application;

passing the input data to the commerce application platform for
validation;

validating the data by the commerce application platform;

providing, by the commerce application platform, business object
functionality to the application; and

preparing presentation information by the application based upon the
business object functionality.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of providing presentation
information further comprises providing static and dynamic presentation data.

12. The method claim 10, wherein the passing of input data further
comprises passing user identification information.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the passing of input data further
comprises passing data corresponding to commerce functionality.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of validating the data further
comprises invoking a rule engine to determine a validation result.

15. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of creating, by the
commerce application platform, a business object for providing business
functionality.

16. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of accessing, by the commerce application platform, an existing business object.
17. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of accessing permanent or session data.
18. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of implementing a second software application on the commerce application platform.
19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of implementing a second software application by concurrently implementing the first software application and the second software application.
20. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of accessing a business object by both the first and the second software applications.
21. A method for providing services to a first software application residing on a commerce application platform, comprising:
receiving from the application input data for validation;
validating the input data; and
providing business object functionality to the application.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the input data received from the application relates to a commerce application function.
23. The method of claim 21, wherein the input data received from the application includes user identification information.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of validating the input data further comprises invoking a rule engine to determine a validation result.

25. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of creating a new business object.

26 27. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of accessing an existing business object.

27 28. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of accessing permanent data.

28 29. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of accessing session data.

29 30. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of creating a persistent object based on a persistent object framework.

30 31. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of receiving input data from a second application on the commerce application platform

31 32. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of receiving input data from the first software application further comprises concurrently receiving input data from a second software application

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The method of claim 21, wherein the step of providing business object functionality to the application further comprises providing the same business object functionality to a second software application.